

## Consolidation Committee

December 4, 2012

Cumberland Public Library

Hayden Room 7 pm

Call to order 7:003pm by Chairman Ron Champagne.

Roll Call – Ron Champagne, Mike Spaziani, Arthur Cowell, Dana Jones, James Leonard, Norm Menard, John McCoy, James Scullin

### Committee Appointments –

A new building committee was formed. The members are Chief Kenneth Finlay, Chief Brian Jackvony, Deputy Chief Michael Feather, Deputy Chief Fred Mitchell Jr. A motion was made by Chairman Champagne to accept the new committee and the appointments. Mike Spaziani amended the motion with the addition of two consolidation committee members to the Building Committee. Those members are Mike Spaziani and Dana Jones. The amended motion was Arthur Cowell and passed unanimously.

Minutes – the minutes from Novembers meeting will be voted to accept at the December meeting as not enough copies were available.

### Committee Reports –

#### Labor Committee

Mike Spaziani – labor committee me last month and is looking at job descriptions and positions. Jim Leonard has written job descriptions. The committee will meet again soon with 1 representative from each department.

#### Financial Committee

John McCoy – the financial committee has gone over a rough draft of a combined budget. Some decisions must be made regarding positions in the new consolidated department. These positions include but are not limited to Tax Collector, Treasurer, Administrative Assistant. Other considerations include the consolidation of differing Blue Cross contracts, payroll and billing systems. The Chairman suggested the Blue Cross broker could create a fictitious group with real data. The Financial committee will meet again 1/8/13.

#### Legal Committee

Jim Leonard – Actual consolidation plan must go through the general assembly. The consolidation must be approved by the districts.

Discussion ensued about the need to write the resolution and who would do this. What are the actual boundaries of the town. The merged district lay out must be looked at. By laws and positions must be drafted. The Legal Committee will meet again soon.

#### Media Committee

Jim Leonard – The town needs to be kept informed. Cumberland Hill thinks the town ends at 295 and the Valley doesn't realize Cumberland extends past 295. An outline of what is being proposed should be created using a power point presentation for meetings in all the districts.

#### Building Committee

Chief Jackvony – the committee met recently and discussed apparatus replacement, what is needed and when some things can be saved for over time. The more immediate needs are where to station apparatus and what changes must be made to current stations to house the apparatus. Each station is unique and faces challenges going forward. Discussion about locations and possibility of using some town owned property to house apparatus, including moving the rescue to another location. It was agreed to engage the town as a partner and not dictate. This would mean using some resources.

Centralization of administration and possible locations were discussed. The committee will meet again in the near future.

#### Public Comment –

Would the fire department consider the Gas Company building on Mendon Road as a possible sight for the Fire Department headquarters? It is possible some property at that location may become available as National Grid is moving. Traffic is an issue.

The committee was asked if they could work with the town to create a consolidated Fire department. The committee agreed they were will to work with the town but was an Independent Fire District with the best interests of the town residents and firefighters.

Communication important, when the town makes statements and the Consolidation Committee doesn't comment it hurts everyone.

Discussion about the necessity of issuing a flyer to all district residents letting all know what is going on and what will be happening in the future. That will be taken up by the Communications Committee at their next meeting.

The next consolidation meetings will be January 15, 2012, February 5, 2012, and March 5, 2012.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairman Champagne at 8:09 and seconded by Norm Menard, passed unanimously.